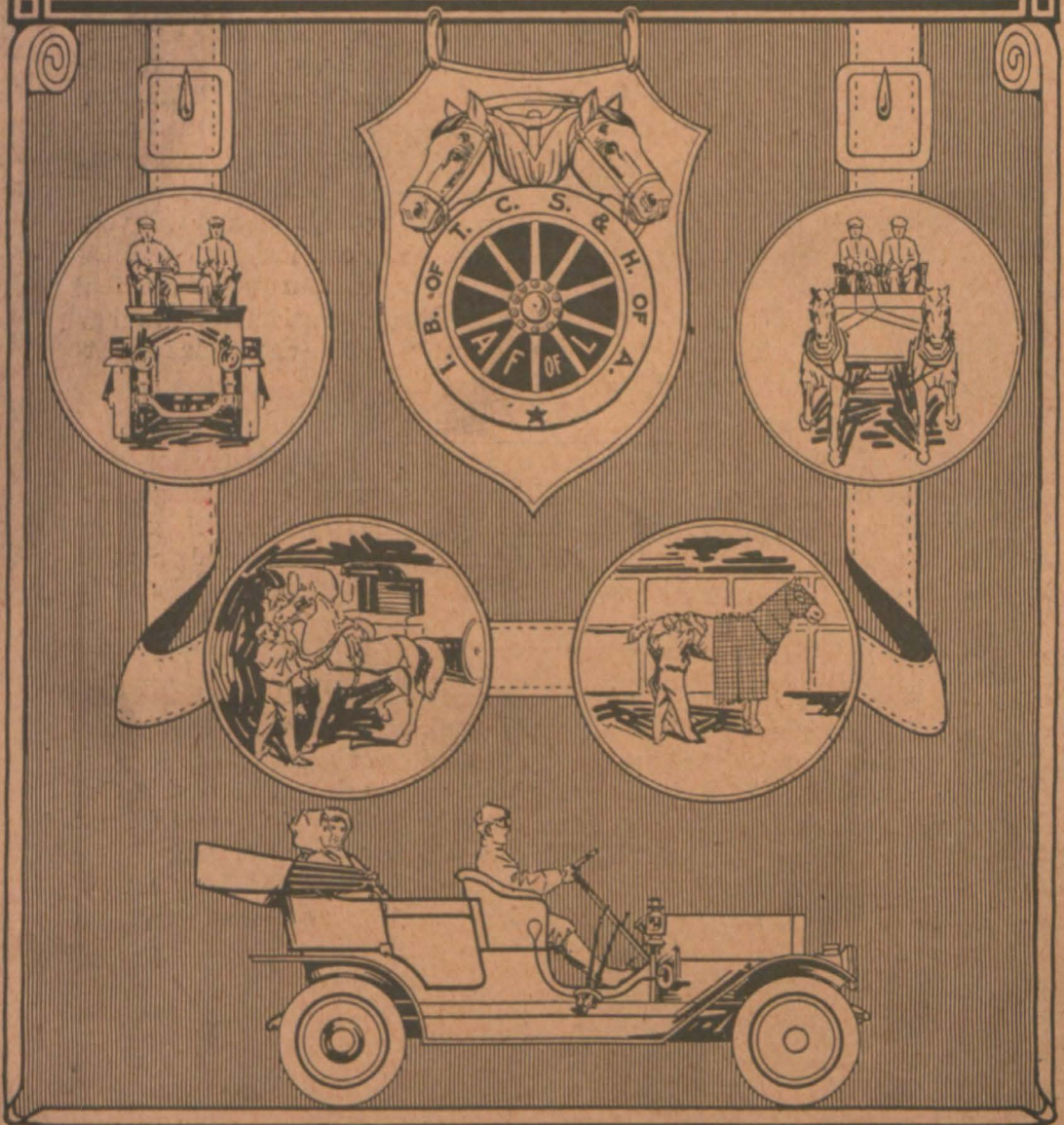


NOVEMBER, 1917

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
TEAMSTERS • CHAUFFEURS
STABLEMEN AND HELPERS
OF AMERICA



The General President and General Secretary-Treasurer will be absent from the office for about two weeks in November, commencing with Monday, the 12th, until about the 26th. They will be attending the convention of the American Federation of Labor, held in Buffalo. Only such questions as must be answered; only such business as must be attended to, should be sent to either of those officers during that period. All routine work, such as the handling of wage scales, taking care of the per capita tax, etc., will be carried on by our office force during that time.

The conference called by the American Federation of Labor between the representatives of our International Union and the representatives of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electrical Railway Employees has been called off. The conference was to have taken place in Chicago, but due to the fact that President Mahon wired your General President that he could not attend the conference because he was surrounded with work and pressed for time, it was postponed and will very likely take place during the sessions of the American Federation of Labor convention. The conference was called for the purpose of deciding where the bus drivers in Chicago should affiliate. Incidentally we may discuss other matters, as the street car men in a few cities have admitted to membership bona fide drivers of wagons.

Brother Briggs paid us a visit at headquarters a few days ago. He is looking in fine condition. He was accompanied by Mrs. Briggs, who travels with him a great deal of the time. He is, in the judgment of the writer, improving in his health, although he is far from being in perfect health.

Organizer Devring has been working in Kansas City for the past month. He is doing fairly well under the circumstances. The drivers in that city have never been organized to amount to anything although the first local union that was ever chartered, No. 1, was started in that city. The packing house employees recently went on strike and formed an organization and obtained better conditions immediately. We thought that would be an incentive to the teamsters and chauffeurs to wake up, but it takes more than the war to wake some people up nowadays.

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MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK JOINT COUNCIL MEETING, HELD SEPTEMBER 11

Meeting called to order at 9 o'clock p. m. President Lacey in the chair. All officers present except Poppe and Daly. Daly excused on account of sickness. Minutes of the previous meeting approved. Wage scale of Local No. 506 endorsed.

Communication from Pavers' Union received and placed on file. Committee appointed to attend coach owners' meeting. Brother McNally stated that he had explained to coach owners that Local No. 643 was in no way responsible for the action of the extra drivers in demanding an increase for driving extra calls. Report received and committee appointed to still act. Committee appointed to attend meeting of Local No. 285, consisting of the Executive Board of the council. Vice-President Cashal reported that they had instructed that local to hold an election of officers and that no member was eligible to run who had held office since January 1, 1917. Same was concurred in by council and secretary instructed to forward copy of minutes to headquarters.

Grievance of Local No. 167 against Local No. 560. Brother Cashal recommended that same be laid over until next meeting. The following local unions reported: Local No. 167, secretary-treasurer and three trustees present, rest ab-

sent; Local No. 202, all absent; Local No. 267, all present except president; Local No. 273, all officers present and have organized West Side Storage Warehouse. Picnic a grand success and thanked all who attended. Local No. 274, all present except secretary-treasurer and one trustee, and requested Vice-President Cashal to assist them in placing new agreements. Request granted. Local No. 285, all absent; secretary of council instructed to communicate with secretary of that local to show cause for being absent, or why their charter should not be revoked and Brother McCaffrey to attend meeting of that local on Saturday, September 15, 1917. Local No. 506, president, recording secretary and secretary-treasurer present, rest absent. Local No. 553, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, recording secretary and one trustee present, rest absent. Local No. 584, all officers present and was successful in having agreements signed with the Mutual McDermott Daily Company, and requested the sanction of strike involving sixty men. The same was granted. Local No. 643, vice-president, secretary-treasurer and two trustees present, rest absent and had conference with Coach Owners' Association and would like to have the same committee to act at the next meeting of Coach Owners' Association. Same granted. Local No. 645, secretary-

treasurer, recording secretary and two trustees present, rest absent. Local No. 282, all present except vice-president and have organized about 150 men and was successful in having four new agreements signed. Local No. 669, president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer present, rest absent, and was successful in having their new agreement signed granting men an increase of 50 cents per day, 50 cents per hour overtime for drivers and 60 cents for chauffeurs. Local No. 807, all officers present except one trustee; strike on with Analine Chemical Company, have organized quite a lot of new men and was successful in having agreements signed.

Council instructed all delegates to the Central body to be present next Friday night as business of importance was to be transacted.

General Auditor Briggs addressed the council on the splendid conditions of the local unions in this section of the country and the harmonious feeling existing among the officers and delegates of the various local unions, and also thanked the officers in general for the assistance that he received from them every time he is in the city.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Fraternally submitted,

WM. O'NEILL, Secretary.

PINCHOT FLAYS THE PROFITEERS



THE following are extracts from a letter by Mr. Amos Pinchot, addressed to the conference committee of the Senate and House of Representatives. Mr. Pinchot strongly favored the taxation of wealth, especially excessive war profits,

and was opposed to taxing the working people or the necessities of life usually used by the working class, and made quite a serious attack on the employers who are members of the Council of National Defense. England, he says, levies a flat tax of 80 per cent. on war profits, and then he goes on to say:

"It will not satisfy the public for congressmen to point out that Eng-

land advanced her taxation of profits and incomes gradually, and to argue from this that America must be careful not to kill business by levying heavy taxes in the first year of our war. This argument is so obviously to try to hide their assaults upon the people and the government under a cloud of patriotic utterances, or by denouncing everybody else as disloyal. There is only one way for them to save the war from legitimate criticism, and that is by ceasing to carry on economic warfare against their own country and concentrating their efforts on fighting Germany. If they will not do this voluntarily, it ought not to be hard to make them. It is within the power of Congress to make a law requiring every man who serves upon the Council of National Defense to file, with the clerk of the House or Senate, a statement of his connection with war-profiting corporations and of the earnings, gross and net, which these corporations have made since the war and in the pre-war period; also a statement of the stocks owned by them in any corporation, whether standing in their own names or in the names of others in their behalf. For their own protection, as well as that of the public, they should be likewise required to file a statement of all their purchases or sales of stocks of any of the corporations which, through the action of the council, may become the recipients of government contracts; such statements to be public property and obtainable upon the application of any citizen. Public opinion will probably soon do the rest. But if this fails, a congressional inquiry is in order."

Further on, in speaking of the employers in the Council of National Defense, he says:

"But what makes it more serious, and this is the condition to which I want to call your attention,

is that some of our principal financiers and captains of industry, who have been called by the government to serve upon the Council of National Defense, are the main offenders in the unpatriotic business of discrediting the war by commercializing it. In close co-operation with the government, in daily conference with our highest executive officers, these men are combining two irreconcilable functions. They are sitting in the morning as foremost patriots, actively directing the mobilization of America's resources, and they are spending their afternoons in taking advantage of the necessity of the people and the government by making legalized, but none the less destructive, financial raids upon them—raids so profitable as to make us look back, almost with gratitude, at the comparative moderation of American profiteers during the Civil war."

And then, after enumerating the enormous profits made by some of the corporations controlled and directed by some of the members of the Council of National Defense, goes on to say:

"I am aware that, if our great metropolitan papers should learn of the publication of the figures I have quoted above, and especially if they should read the august names of our distinguished captains of finance in connection with them, they would be righteously indignant. They would probably go so far as to denounce this letter as pro-German propaganda or as a 'thinly veiled' attack upon the country in time of war. Well, there is nothing thinly veiled about the actions of our profiteers, unless you would call the onslaught of a hungry school of sharks upon a whale a thinly veiled proceeding. The only difference, as far as I can see, is that the sharks are a little franker about it than the profiteers. They do not tear the whale

until they are full of whale meat to the gills; then sheer off for a while and circle around him, scowling at all the little fishes and telling them to love dear old Uncle Whale and never criticise him. Nor do they occasionally appease public opinion by vomiting up a little whale meat (recently an integral part of their beloved whale) for the benefit of the Red Cross hospital fish, whose duty is to take care of Uncle Whale, should he get into a fight and be wounded by some wicked alien enemy. Decidedly, the seagoing sharks have points of distinct moral superiority, even if their less developed brains have not yet mastered the delightful subtleties of up-to-date business patriotism. Yes, if the papers choose to consider it a disloyal act to point out the conditions which are undermining the country's confidence in the war, then let them make the most of it. If it is loyalty to stand by in silence and watch the profiteers give the people and the government a black eye at such a time as this, then God save America from loyalty!

"I say this deliberately and, I think, with sufficient sense of the seriousness of my words. Our Congress and our administration, by allowing members of the Council of National Defense to exploit the war, while they direct our industrial mobilization; and by generally permitting great corporations, which supply the fighting and producing classes with the necessities of life, and the government with the necessities of military operations, to retain gigantic war profits practically immune from taxation, is doing more in a day to make the war unpopular among the rank and file of the people than all the anarchists, anti-war agitators and pro-German propagandists will accomplish in the war's entire term, though it should last five years or even a decade."

Then, in referring to the workmen, he states further:

"As for the workingman, take the case of Phelps, Dodge & Co., in Arizona. Their mines were the scene of the activities of the I. W. W., who in Bisbee urged the employes to strike. The net earnings of Phelps, Dodge & Co. in the pre-war period averaged \$7,442,339 a year. In 1916 the net earnings were \$21,974,263. God knows what they will be this year. Does any intelligent man suppose that, if Phelps, Dodge & Co., instead of taking the \$14,000,000 above average earnings out of the people and the government, had sold copper at a reasonable price or paid their employes a fair share of their abnormal profits, there would have been any labor troubles in their district? If they had done this, instead of acting the unpatriotic part of greedy war profiteers, neither the I. W. W. nor any other labor organization in the world could have persuaded the men to make trouble for their employers. The deportation of I. W. W. leaders from Bisbee was ill advised. If somebody had to be deported on account of the strike it should have been those who were truly responsible for it—and they were not at Bisbee.

"Again, suppose the wage-earner is an employe of the United States Steel Corporation. His employer is netting about \$550,000,000 this year as against the pre-war average of \$63,500,000. This, too, is an invitation to strike for more pay. If the employes do so, however, they are denounced by the press as undesirable citizens under the influence of the Kaiser's money. The government and Mr. Gompers descend on the plant at the lunch hour and say, 'Boys, be patriotic, don't strike. We are at war; this is no time for discord. Capital and labor must fight hand

in hand. You and your employers must have only one thought till the war is over, and that thought is to make the world safe for democracy, 'irrespective of sordid personal gain.'

"To an outsider, neither in the labor nor the capitalist camp, it would seem more helpful to the country if those in authority descended on the directors' meeting instead of on the employes, and said to our Mr. Garys, Mr. Ryans, Mr. DuPonts and Mr. Armours, 'Boys, be patriotic; don't rob the public. Remember we are at war. This is no time to exploit either your country or your employes.

Lower your prices; raise your wages; declare no record dividends. You are dividing class against class by your price and wage policy. You are hurting the war; you are giving it a bad name. Wait till after it's over, if you want to make big money. Don't assume that your stockholders are hogs. America has her load to carry now. The people are poor; don't make them poorer; they need food to fight on, to work on. Be patriotic, if you want your country to be successful. Play the game like good sports. You were Americans before you were directors. Be Americans now.'"

STORY OF A RUSSIAN PRISONER



HE following information was secured from a Russian prisoner of war, recently escaped through Belgium from the occupied portion of

northern France:

After twelve days of travel from his place of imprisonment he arrived at the electric fence near the Antwerp-Rosendaal line. He dug his way out under the fence with a long knife, with which he had been provided, on a stormy night when the sentries were under cover.

He belonged to a labor battalion which worked at the rear of the firing line dismantling manufacturing plants and railways. There were other battalions composed of Belgians, French, English, Italians and Roumanians. He was not in contact with them and could give no information concerning them. He stated that the work of these battalions was directed by German soldiers. In 1915 and 1916 these soldiers worked well themselves and were very hard on the prisoners. This year, and especially lately, they had slackened very much in their efforts. Insufficient

food of bad quality had brought on a condition of physical debility, and they were unable to work well. He was told that a number of them had deserted, and others who were given leave had crossed over into Holland. The prevailing spirit among them was one of apathy.

—Small Bread Allowance—

The prisoners' allowance of bread was one loaf of two and a half pounds a day for four men. Turnip soup was the only other thing they got to eat. Occasionally there was meat in it from some injured horse that had been killed. A labor battalion on the western front originally consisted of 2,000 men, but the processes of starvation, accidents, exposure, unmerciful beatings and death have reduced it to about 500 men and sometimes to much less. The same process of disintegration was going on in all the battalions.

Those men who cheated the graveyard were either distributed among other battalions, sent to hospitals behind the front, or were assigned to invalid commands. They were total physical wrecks, and barely hung on to life. Some of them had broken arms or legs

and fingerless hands—in a word, men with every injury and deformity the human frame can endure and still hold life.

—Sick Kept at Front to Die—

The sick, the injured and those utterly worn out and unfit are never sent back to Germany to their original camps, but are kept behind the front, there to die. The officials are afraid of the effect on their own people of the horrible sight these men present. They are like men who stalk out of their graves, animated skeletons, bones covered with skin, cheeks without flesh, deeply sunken eyes.

The informant was a sergeant and resisted to the end all German attempts to compel him to work. The latter part of November he was given the choice to work or to be starved to death. He accepted the latter. For six days he was stood at attention in an open field from 6 a. m. till noon. After eating his soup at noon he and thirty other non-commissioned officers were locked up in a wet cellar until morning. This went on for six days.

—Suspended from Posts—

They were then told that three of the thirty of them would be picked out by lot and would be shot unless they consented to work. They were led out. In the party were three sentries, a German officer and a doctor. The threat was repeated once more. The Polish non-commissioned officers weakened and consented to work, others followed suit and signed a paper to the effect that they "volunteered" to work. The informant and ten others persisted in their refusal and begged the officer to have them shot. They were led to one side, their arms were twisted behind their backs, wrists were tied with a rope and they were then led each to a post and backed against it;

wooden blocks were brought on which they were made to stand while their hands were tied to the post as high as possible. The blocks were then kicked out from under them and they were left suspended by their wrists with their feet off the ground, the upper part of their body taking a drooping position. They remained thus suspended two hours. The next day the process was repeated and one man broke down and consented to work. Hanging of the remainder continued and was followed by beatings with rifle butts, then followed four more hours of hanging, when consciousness left them. They were carried into the cellar and were thrown on wet stones. The men weakened and "volunteered" to work. The informant held out. Altogether he hung twelve hours on that post. People came to look at him, French civilians took pictures of him, German soldiers standing in the vicinity cursed their commandant for the wanton cruelty; a general came along, looked at him, said nothing and went away.

—Finally Liberated—

He was finally liberated and was sent to work along with others. He was given a shovel and threw it away. This went on for five days, after which he was sent to another barrack and was left alone, as he only created distraction on the work. The cook there enlisted his services and he worked in the kitchen. He stated that there were ten other non-commissioned officers who similarly resisted all German efforts to compel them to work.

July 1, 1917, a party of thirty men, five of whom were sergeants, came to his battalion. Twenty of them consented to work, others refused. They were made to stand immovable from 5 a. m. to noon, when soup was given them, and

then the standing continued to 10 p. m. This continued eight days. The commandant told them they would stand until they were dead unless they consented to work.—Official Bulletin German Cruelty.

MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO GRILLS "LAW-AND- ORDERITE"

President Koster of the chamber of commerce of San Francisco and moving spirit in the business men's \$1,000,000 "law-and-order" committee, will long remember Mayor Rolph's reply to the charge by Koster that he (Rolph) has failed to preserve law and order during the present street car strike.

Koster is spokesman for a small group of blind and unreasonable anti-unionists who favor, as Mayor Rolph said, Napoleon's "whiff of grapeshot" every time workers dare to strike.

"Neither you, nor the law-and-order committee," said the city's executive, "has earned, by any conspicuous devotion to law and order, the right to lecture me or the police department.

"On the contrary, the attitude and activity of you and your particular group have done much, in my opinion, to engender the industrial unrest and class hatred, culminating on a few occasions in turbulence and violence which have lately distressed this community.

"I am quite as strongly opposed to lawlessness and disorder as you and your committee can possibly be; and I am, moreover, opposed to every form of lawlessness and disorder, whether committed by a corporation, a striker or a strike-breaker and whether that lawlessness takes the form of bribery, perjury or any sort of chicanery, or the more violent form of assault and murder.

"No one can regret and resent more intensely than I do the mur-

der committed or the occasional violence which has occurred the last few days and has disgraced the street car strikes, and when you say that I, as mayor, and the police department have not done everything in our power to maintain order and prevent violence and crime, and when you intimate that we have not in fact succeeded in preventing violence and crime as well as it can possibly be done under the circumstances, you utter a falsehood which may be based on ignorance or prejudice, but to me appears deliberate.

"It is particularly difficult for the police to prevent all violence in a street car strike, a teamsters' strike, a railroad strike, or any out-of-doors strike of that character. No police department in any city, so far as I know, has ever succeeded in maintaining perfect order in a bitter and prolonged labor dispute of that kind. No one except a fanatic or a fool would expect such a perfect result.

"Since the commencement of this strike the whole police department has been doing extra duty and exercising the greatest vigilance and diligence to prevent disorder. Policemen have been recalled from their vacations, a great many of the policemen on special details as clerks in headquarters have been put on patrol duty, and the whole department is working on twelve-hour instead of eight-hour shifts seven days a week.

"Since the beginning of this strike there has been more men on patrol duty in San Francisco by day and night than ever before in the history of the city. The disorders that have occurred have been few in comparison with the disorders in street car strikes that occurred in former years in San Francisco. Either you know these facts, or you refuse to know them.

"Doubtless you are disappointed because the police have not yet

turned machine guns on crowds in our streets and killed a few dozen strikers, including the customary number of innocent by-standers, but with all respect to your opinion, I think the police do well to enforce law and order as firmly as they have done, but without any quick or wanton slaughter of the people. Violent and bloody repression has never maintained law and order so effectively as firmness, coupled with moderation and common sense.

"It is unfortunate that so many persons of your type in this country are so incurably stupid and ignorant about business and industry, the very matters in which you are most concerned and in respect to which you deem yourself most enlightened. The world is changing all around you, and you and your kind don't know it any more than the czar knew what was happening to him in Russia until it was all over. You still believe in Napoleon's 'whiff of grapeshot.' You still think that industrial discontent can be quelled by the policeman's club. Happily the rest of us do not need to take you or your law-and-order committee as seriously as you take yourselves.

"Law and order will be maintained in San Francisco by the police department in spite of the bitterness and hatred which have been aroused in this community by the attitude of yourself and your law and order committee."

UNIONISM JUSTIFIED IN WORLD-WIDE WAR

Trade unionism could not remain true to its principles and stand aloof from the present world war, declared Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor in a Labor Day speech in Indianapolis, Ind.

"Regardless of the first cause of the present world-wide field of carnage," he said, "the logic of events has compelled our country to un-

sheath the sword in a contest that has since developed between forces that justify government based on the theory that rulers receive power from on high and government that acknowledges its dependence on the individual.

"In this struggle organized labor has taken the only course it can take and remain true to its policy and its principles. It is no answer to say that we should favor peace and take no part in a struggle 3,000 miles away. We favor peace on the industrial field, and yet our numbers in the State of Maine will rally to the support of attacked workers on the Pacific slope.

"We cry for peace and yet our members were in the ranks in this country's army when our nation went on sympathetic strike against Spanish domination in Cuba and secured freedom for the people of that island and of Porto Rico and the Philippines. We cry for peace, and yet our workers continually brave death in the mines, in transportation service and in all lines of industry, through occupational diseases and other causes.

"The longing for liberty is inherent in the members of organized labor, and when this aspiration of other peoples is checked by a power backed by educational development, by economic organization and by the greatest military machine the world has ever known, the American trade union movement, true to principles so continuously urged, took the open road to democracy when it was called on to choose.

"In opposition to this war, attention is called to profiteers who will reap benefit. This is true, but in protesting against these profiteers, and in supporting every movement that will check them and will conscript their wealth, as has been done with men, I urge you not to lose sight of the principle that has been developed in this war since our

(Continued on page 14.)

EDITORIAL

(By Daniel J. Tobin.)

WE have finally got to the point where a serious situation is confronting the working people of our country. To be brief, the high cost of living is going to continue to be high. There is not going to be any reduction in prices and everything points to the fact that prices will be still higher before many months pass over our heads. The time in our country is not far distant when the working people will be unable to buy any kind of meat. Flour is going to remain where it is—around \$15.00 a barrel. The point we are trying to make is this: that the government with all of its regulation seems to be powerless to bring down the high cost of living. In days past we were in the habit of blaming the increased cost of meat entirely to the packing house trust, but they are not entirely to blame today. The man who has always had our sympathy because we believed him to be treated unfairly; the man who had always been what we called the hard-working, trampled-down individual is at the present time the key to the entire food situation and there is no use any longer in trying to hide behind the fact or becloud the case, that the individual entirely responsible for the present high cost of living is the farmer; that he is stronger than the government because the government cannot place any set price on cattle, hogs or milk and say to the farmer, you must sell those products at this price. The farmer might say all right, and he undoubtedly will say, "If you compel me to do so, I suppose I cannot get any more for them," but what he really does is to stop raising that particular product, and there is no law in the land that can compel him to raise pigs if he does not wish to raise them. This is also true of wheat and corn. You know when hogs are selling at 20 cents a pound on hoof—and you can remember when they sold for 3½ cents—that it is not a dream, but absolute facts, that the farmer must be getting, and is getting nearly all the juicy end of the price. When wheat is selling for over \$2.00 a bushel, and not many years ago the farmer thought that if wheat ever went to \$1.00 a bushel he would immediately become a millionaire, but it is now selling for over \$2.00 a bushel, so the farmer has not only reached the highest pinnacle of his ambition, but has doubled his ambition in a few years. Milk—the one product the poor must have—what can we say about that? It is almost impossible to imagine that in three years milk has gone up from 7 cents a quart to 14 and 15 cents, with a possible chance of going still higher. Talk about your combination and trust—there is not any greater and, in our judgment, any more criminal combination today than the farmers' organizations of this country. As I said at the opening of this article, for years our sympathies were with the farmer and the farmers' organizations, but cold-blooded facts are now staring us in the face, and besides, in a few years, if things continue as they are, the farmer will be responsible for starving the working people. We can get increase after increase in our wages, but it amounts to nothing for us because it is immediately taken away from us by the increased price in food products that we need in our homes, and there seems to be no hope for a change in this direction. Of course, the price of coal is pretty high. We are paying too much for

it. Recently the miners held a meeting with the operators and received another increase in wages, for which the public will pay. The question that confronts us is this: Where are we going to land? What is going to be the end of it all? If the war continues for any length of time we will be starving. Work is plentiful, that is true, but men are working for just something to eat, and men are not as well fed as they were some years ago when prices were reasonable. From the information we have at hand from European countries where the war is raging prices are much higher in our country than they are over there, still some people will have us believe we are one hundred per cent. ahead of where we were a few years ago. Perhaps the sanitary condition in the homes of the workers has improved, but as to his eating and as to the clothes he wears, he is going down hill. The quality is much inferior to what it used to be. So, we hope and trust that if the government can do anything with those illegal combinations of farmers that have the power to cripple us by increasing the price of meat and other necessary products, God speed the government in its undertaking. We have always before stood by the farmer, whom we believed to be our friend, but whether we have sprung from the farming class or belong to some other class, there is no longer any need of trying to hide behind the fact, because what the workingmen and their families are enduring and suffering as a result of the high prices existing, brought about by the combination of farmers in every section of the country, is beyond description. Everything points to the fact that the milk distributors in the large cities will have to go out of business if the farmer keeps on raising the price of milk and that the children of the poor man will starve for the want of milk, because in a short time it will be impossible for him to meet the price, if conditions continue as they are at the present time.

A letter has been received from our Local Union No. 302 in which we are notified that Robert J. MacCaskie, formerly a member, was expelled from the union on June 5, 1917, on charges which were duly preferred against him, as he was found guilty of trying to assist an unfair employer, thereby violating his obligation to the organization. Local unions affiliated with the International please take notice.

Local No. 302, Milk Drivers of Alameda county, California, is a good, faithful, law-abiding union; it has made wonderful conditions for its membership since it was chartered. It is a live, hustling, active union, always on the jump looking for a new way in which to assist not only its own men, but the men in all unions in their district.

STRANGE as it may seem, we still lead all International and national unions in having the lowest number of men on strike throughout the nation not only at this writing, but since the declaration of war by our country against Germany. Surely no one can say but what we are doing our level best to carry out the wishes of the President of the United States in endeavoring to have harmony and peace prevail within our organization, or between our organization and our employers. It is true that a few slight disturbances have arisen here and there, but nothing of any serious consequence has taken place in so far as a strike or lockout is concerned since the first day of February of this year. At

this writing we have not one man on strike throughout the length and breadth of our great country and with almost seventy thousand members this is something to be proud of. We hope and trust that our members will make their friends and the public acquainted with this fact. The one organization that has loyally carried out to the letter the request made of us by our national government is the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Chauffeurs. It is true that there are times when strikes cannot be avoided, but there are other times when strikes can be avoided by using diplomacy; by bearing with patience some of the hardships that are imposed on us until such time as every means has been exhausted to straighten out the problem. It is true that sometimes those problems and disagreements cannot be straightened out without entering into a strike, but we are doing it, and we have done it, and we will continue to do our level best to do it, at least, while our country is at war and while our brothers are offering up their lives on foreign soil in defense of our nation. No one can point to the fact that because of our hotheadedness, or because of our poor judgment, we crippled any industry in any particular city or any section of the country during the period of war. We believe that this is our duty, and we must do our duty, and more than our duty, if we can. From latest reports that have come into our office from our unions we believe that our organization is up as high as any of the other organizations in so far as our local unions purchasing Liberty bonds are concerned, besides what is being done by individual members. Each of us, and all of us individually and together, are first, last and all the time true Americans and we are doing our share in our humble, quiet way, without having any brass bands announcing the fact or making believe we are the only patriots in the world; nor have any bribes been offered us by anyone to do what we have done. We simply and solely are doing our share of the work and everyone should do his share, because in the whole history of the nation we were never confronted with a similar situation. In the days of the Revolution, when we were fighting against England for our liberty, we were not fighting an enemy half as dangerous as the enemy we are now fighting. Or in the days of the Civil war, when for four years brother was fighting against brother so that the Union might be preserved, no matter what the result would have been at that time it could not have been half as serious as the result will be now if we are defeated, because we were then fighting men, human beings, who were civilized but who did not look at the question at issue as the men of the North looked at it. The men of the South viewed slavery from a different standpoint, and they believed themselves to be absolutely right, but even in those days we were fighting human beings with only a different opinion on the question, men whom we knew after the battle was over we could meet again, but we are today fighting savages, cannibals, men of the lowest type that civilization has ever produced; men who have no conscience; a system that is surrounded and controlled by tyrants whose cruelties are almost indescribable. We are fighting an enemy from whom we can expect no mercy if that enemy is the victor. We are fighting a system that for centuries has recognized only absolute submission from the working classes; a system that is willing to wade through rivers of blood before they will submit to have that system of cruelty destroyed. Yes, we have reached the most critical time in all the history of our country, and we, as Americans first, and as trade unionists, must be willing to make any sacrifice we are called

upon to make so that our country may be preserved and the nations of the earth set free from the monster tyrant with whom we are engaged in conflict.

NOT so very long ago the government established certain prices for coal. Within the last week the miners and operators have been meeting in Washington for the purpose of discussing wage conditions of the miners. The latest report tells us that the operators have agreed to pay the miners more wages but that the government will have to change its schedule of prices. The question that confronts us is this: Does the government amount to anything if within thirty days they are forced to open up the set prices made by them? If so, then the coal operators are more powerful than the government. The man who pays the price in the end is the consumer. The poor working-man and his family will freeze in his little home during the winter and spring because of another increase in the price of this necessary product. Would it not be a good time for the government to consider the question of taking over the mines, either buying them entirely or placing them under government control during the period of war and in this way find out whether or not there is any real need for the government to change its set prices? Of course, the raise in the price of coal per ton will be much greater than the increase granted in wages to the miners. We remember a few years ago in Cincinnati when the ice companies in that city locked out the drivers, and the city of Cincinnati, under the direction of the mayor, decided to operate the ice plants because the ice companies claimed they were not making any money on ice at the price at which they were then selling it. After the city of Cincinnati had been operating the plants and selling ice at the old price for about two months they found that enormous profits were being made and that there was not any need for raising the price of ice, and that even after granting the men a substantial increase in wages, that considerable profit remained. Perhaps if the same condition prevailed in the coal mines, that is if the government would operate the mines, it would no doubt be found that enormous profits are now being made and that the government could sell coal much cheaper than the price at which it is at present being sold and the government would have a substantial margin on the profit side of the ledger, and besides save millions of dollars for the public. Yes, the time is ripe for the government to consider this question. If the government is powerless to hold down the price of coal, if the government is not as strong as the combination of mine operators, then it is time that the government should buy out the mine operators or else let the mine owners buy out the government, because this country is not large enough for two combinations or institutions of this kind.

This is the time when everyone should put his shoulder to the wheel and help the government. We are bound to print in the columns of our Journal anything that may be of material help to our government. While trying to convey to our membership all the substantial news we can, it becomes necessary every now and then to refer to the fact that perhaps some of us could do better than we are doing. Our organization is doing its share, as stated in another column, but ask yourself, Is there any way in which you can do a little more than what

you are doing? America first should be our war cry. No matter whether we are English, Irish, German or French extraction, we are Americans and those who are not with our country are surely against it and there is no place for them in our organization. Watch your step very closely. Keep out of trouble. The hardest period of the war has not yet struck us. There are dark days coming. Save every dollar you can so you may be able to meet the trying conditions that are apparently in store for us.

Brother James Boyle, business agent of Local No. 108, City Teamsters of Cincinnati, has been elected delegate to the American Federation of Labor convention to represent the Ohio State Federation of Labor in the coming convention to be held in Buffalo during the month of November. This is a distinct honor; something we are indeed proud of. It is not only a recognition of the ability of Jim Boyle, but it is a mark of respect to all the teamsters and chauffeurs in the State of Ohio, especially when we realize that our Cincinnati local unions have only been organized about five years. It again proves what we can do by sticking together, working together and grasping at the right end of the argument. The Teamsters and Chauffeurs were very strongly represented in the State convention and they organized and worked in harmony, selected their candidate and manfully went out and supported Brother Boyle as their candidate. All opposition then faded away and he was elected unanimously by the convention, which was one of the most progressive and intelligent conventions of its kind held in this country. The convention had in attendance about 450 delegates. The miners' union alone had about 150 delegates. The miners were anxious to elect one of their men to some position, but they were unable to do so because of the fact that they were not working together with the progressive element of the organization.

We congratulate Brother Boyle. We want our membership to know that our people when they do wake up can lead any of them in a fight for recognition and obtain consideration and results.

SINCE our last issue a conference was held in the General Office between our International Union, the Engineers, the Stationary Firemen and the Municipal Firemen's Union. The last named organization is composed of men in the regular fire departments, and they have several unions throughout the country. They have in these firemen's unions drivers of apparatus. Many of those men were formerly members of our unions and still desire to retain their membership. Our International has contended that it is a violation of the laws of the American Federation of Labor for these local unions, chartered under the American Federation of Labor, to be admitting into membership drivers and chauffeurs. The executive council of the American Federation of Labor decided to call a conference and instructed Vice-President Frank Duffy, General Secretary of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners to act as umpire at this conference. There was no misunderstanding or contention between our organization and the Engineers or Stationary Firemen, as those organizations were contending for the same as we were—their respective membership. Our contention was against the action of the American Federation of Labor for granting federal charters to unions admitting to membership men cov-

ered distinctly by our craft, thus encouraging industrial organization, which would help materially to destroy our International Union.

We have no fear of the result, as the fairness of the umpire helps the situation. He understands the movement thoroughly. His report has already been submitted to the executive council and undoubtedly we will hear it at the convention of the American Federation of Labor to be held in Buffalo. Expecting that the decision will grant us our rights, we advise our representatives to admit to membership either drivers of auto apparatus or horse-drawn apparatus. The proper locals for these men to hold membership in would be in the Truck Drivers or Merchandise Drivers' Unions in any city or town where such organizations are chartered. The wage scale in existence covering that particular local or craft would have nothing to do with the wage scale of the firemen or with their hours. Municipal governments take care of the wages and hours of city firemen. The organization is to lend its assistance to help the men engaged at that business toward better conditions.

UNIONISM JUSTIFIED IN WORLD-WIDE WAR

(Continued from page 8.)

country's entrance. This principle overshadows all else, and must not be subordinated to secondary questions of internal affairs that can be solved by an alert citizenship that must insist each shall do his share.

"The one outstanding fact that the historians are interested in is that the civil war destroyed the auction block for black men as a part of the business relation between white men, and the one great fact that will come out of the present great war is that the cause of democracy will be served as never before, for when the world's armies are disbanded it is inconceivable that men will accept conditions that are a denial of that freedom for which they so courageously and successfully battled."

KNOCKERS vs. BOOSTERS

Some one has said that when the Creator had made all the good things there remained some dirty work to do, so He made the beasts and reptiles and poisonous insects, and when He had finished He had some scraps that were too bad to put into the rattlesnake, the hyena, the scorpion and the skunk, so He put all these together, covered it

with suspicion, wrapped it with jealousy, marked it with a yellow streak, and called it a knocker.

This product was so fearful to contemplate that He had to make something to counteract it, so He took a sunbeam and put it in the heart of a child, the brain of a man, wrapped these in civic pride, covered it with brotherly love, gave it a mask of velvet and a grasp of steel, and called it a booster; made him a lover of fields and flowers, and manly sports, a believer in equality and justice, and ever since those two were, mortal man has had the privilege of choosing his associates.—Service.

WANT LABOR LAW CHANGED

Cigarmakers' Union No. 97 is urging Massachusetts trade unionists to support an amendment to the State workmen's compensation law which will include occupational diseases. The cigarmakers call attention to a recent decision by the State supreme court which excludes occupational diseases. Much publicity is necessary to offset the lobby of the private insurance companies, it is urged.

A good heart is like the sun, for it shines bright and never changes, but keeps its course truly.—Shakespeare.

CORRESPONDENCE



VANCOUVER, B. C., CANADA

Mr. D. J. Tobin, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Dear Sir and Brother—Just a line to let you know Vancouver, B. C., is now on the map of the I. B. of T. Our local is only four months old, but we have a membership of nearly 600, and growing at every meeting.

We have an uphill fight here, the majority of our members working eleven hours a day for \$3.00. We are now trying to remedy this and are asking for nine hours as a start and have a committee at work on a wage schedule, and I hope shortly to be able to report success.

Hoping to see this in the Magazine, I am, Yours fraternally,

BIRT SHOWLER,

Sec'y-Treas., Local No. 655.

JERSEY CITY, N. J.

Mr. D. J. Tobin, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Dear Sir and Brother—"What Organization Has Done" was the heading of an article in last month's Magazine, so let me add a few words as to what organization has done for the Milk Wagon Drivers of Hudson county, New Jersey.

Local No. 147, Milk Wagon Drivers, was organized a little more than one year ago. Besides bringing together a good bunch of fellows and having a social time now and again, we have secured many benefits. During the past year we have raised the wages of all drivers \$5.00 per week with a higher rate of commission. We have standardized the wages and commission, cut out all kinds of penalties and reduced the working hours, so that today the conditions of the milk drivers of the Keystone Dairy Company, which is the only

full union dairy in Hudson county, are about as perfect as organization and prudence can make them.

The Borden and Sheffield Farms Company are unfair to organized labor and they pound us whenever they can. I hope every reader of this article will help Local No. 147 of Hudson county by giving their trade to the only all-union milk company, the Keystone. The more trade you give a union driver with this month's union button the more commission he will make, and the scab driver will get that much less. So look for the milk driver with the union button and give him a helping hand. Remember the Borden and Sheffield Milk Companies are not friends of organized labor. Go to either of them with a union button on your hat and ask for a job and see what happens to you. "In unity and union there is strength."

Respectfully,

EDWARD A. SCHULT,
Business Agent No. 147.

LOWELL, MASS.

Mr. D. J. Tobin, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Dear Sir and Brother—We have just obtained an increase of \$1.50 to \$2.00 per week. This is increasing our men \$3.50 in less than two years, and as it has been brought about without a strike or creating any ill feeling between employers and our organization, we feel we are gradually showing the unorganized men of our craft that it is to their benefit to become members of our union.

Now, Brother Tobin, there is a good chance to do some more organizing work among the teamsters in the city of Lowell. We are doing our best. We think if you can get

some one to come to Lowell we will hold an open meeting and give him the best that is in us.

Wishing success to our brothers throughout the country, I am,

Fraternally yours,

NELS ANDERSON,

Sec'y-Treas., Local No. 72.

A request has been sent to us by Local Union No. 217, Canal Zone, Panama, and the address of the secretary is as follows: F. B. Maxwell, Box 362, Ancon, Canal Zone, Panama, asking that our chauffeurs' unions, or other unions having chauffeurs in their membership, write him giving the amount of wages paid to the chauffeurs in the different parts of the country. He needs this information for his local union in order to help them prepare a suitable argument as to conditions in other parts of the country when presenting their case to the government.

IN AMERICA AND IN EUROPE

Food speculators in Europe have a hard time of it. Several instances have sifted through from Europe having to do with the manner of dealing with those vampires. In one instance a "business" man was fined some \$30,000—all his property—and sent to prison, besides. In another instance one of the "gougers" had his business confiscated and he was stood up against a stone wall.

It appears that in this country, as in the case of Josephus Daniels and the big men in the steel trust, that when they wanted \$85 or \$115 per ton for steel, Josephus said \$58, and nothing was done as to the attempt to rob the government. Honest prices should be encouraged, but when buccaneer methods are attempted short shrift should be meted out with an iron hand.

In the case of men refusing to heed the selective service board mandates, the all-powerful hand of

the government reaches out effectively. Likewise, when the profiteers and buccaneers refuse to assist the government, which the man called upon to fight is forced to, they should receive a lasting taste of that patriotism which is not measured by the profits which they can squeeze out of the country for which the selective service men may be forced to give up their lives.

Dollars are needed to win this war, but when human lives are commandeered, dollars should receive no higher consideration.

Hundreds of thousands of the flower of the young men of this broad land have thrown their all into the vortex of war, and the profiteers, when caught up by sharp practices, should be placed in internment camps or set to work learning the first principles of American citizenship.

A slap on the wrist with a feather is not conducive to force compliance; it requires the application of a large-sized brogan where the portion of the human anatomy is broadest.

Hundreds of millions of dollars have been wrenched and filched from the people through this country going to war; those hundreds of millions of dollars are the direst spoils profiteered from the patriotism of the American people.

It should be confiscated. The lesson would thus be a salutary one.—Detroit Labor News.

Some industries have developed unusual spurts of activity in the past few weeks, adding new volume to an already large business and extended future contracts; shipbuilding is a notable example of this condition. Naturally such movements are indirectly strengthening to many other lines. Indeed, building operations are practically the only factor which does not record a large total for the past month.

Organizer Cashal writes us from New York that the trouble in Local No. 506, Excavating and Sand Teamsters, has been practically settled up, the men obtaining better conditions. We hope and trust that peace will now prevail in that industry.

Vice-President Dan Murphy of St. Louis has been elected to represent the Missouri State Federation of Labor in the American Federation of Labor convention.

Vice-President Harry Jennings of Boston has been elected to represent the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor in the convention of the American Federation of Labor in Buffalo, to be held during the month of November. It is no mean honor to have the foregoing selected as the one person to represent the organization that elected him, as they are two splendid organizations of the American Federation of Labor. Undoubtedly there will be many more of our members representing several cities and towns throughout the country in attendance at the convention. This is due to the fact that today our local unions are realizing the necessity of affiliating with Central bodies and State branches throughout the country. We have for several years past endeavored to educate our members to this condition. Teamsters and chauffeurs have brains and intelligence and if they will only go into those bodies where they can exercise their brains and intelligence they will do better for themselves and for their organization. It is true that some of the State branches and Central bodies are not what they should be, as they are sometimes controlled by small, cheap rings, but you can make them right by getting on the inside. You can never fight wrongdoers from the outside. You can also protect and further the best interests of your organization, especially in time of trouble, when you need the co-operation of all of the trades in your district by being on the inside.

How often we hear it said, if we would only work together what splendid results we could obtain. The small word "if" is quite a stumbling block. There are many times when this small word could be dispensed with. There is no reason why we could not get along together through mutual co-operation. Instead of that we seem many times to be working under the banner of mutual suspicion of each other. It is wrong to suspect all men of being selfish. There are more good men in the world than there are bad men. There are ten real trade unionists to one bad one. There are men who are willing to do anything to help the union or a brother, even though there are a few who double-cross themselves in order to keep in practice, if there was no one else to double-cross. There are a greater number of men who take pride in doing good for others than there are in the class that do not want to do anything for anyone except themselves. Let us therefore work closer together if we can. Let us try to put into practice co-operation. Let us teach ourselves to think better of one another. It can be done. There is nothing impossible. Let us get away from the habit of working under mutual suspicion of each other.

Official Magazine
of the
International Brotherhood
of Teamsters, Chauffeurs
Stablemen and Helpers
of America

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